

## FACT SHEET

# Tobacco is Easy for Children to Get

Hawai'i State Department of Health

- Young people are most likely to have experimented with smoking for the first time during early adolescence. [1] In Hawai'i 63% [2] of high school students reported trying cigarettes.
- Nationally 7% [3] and in Hawai'i 12% [2] of students first smoked a whole cigarette before age 11.
- Cooperation from store merchants to comply with state laws is essential in reducing the rate of underage smoking. In Hawai'i, over one-third of high school students reported buying cigarettes in a store even though they were asked to show proof of age. [2]
- Nationally 30% [4] and in Hawai'i 16%[2] of current high school smokeless tobacco users usually got their smokeless tobacco by buying it in a store.
- The Internet may be a growing medium for cigar sales; very few sites, which sell cigars, provide health warnings, and many use youth-friendly images (e.g., cartoons, music, etc.). [5]

## How Current Smokers Usually Got Their Cigarettes (%), Year 2000

	Hawai'i (High School)	U.S.
Someone else buys the cigarettes for them	29.0	25.1
Borrowing them from someone	23.3	32.2
Buying the cigarettes in a store	16.7	20.9

Data Source: 2000 Hawai'i Youth Tobacco Survey, Hawaii State Dept. of Health; 2000 Youth Tobacco Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## REFERENCE:

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